



**Compliance and Enforcement Division
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109**

INCIDENT REPORT

**Plant B2758
Tesoro Refining and Marketing Refinery**

**Martinez, CA
February 20, 2004**

On February 20, 2004 a power outage occurred at the Tesoro Refining and Marketing Martinez Refinery. The outage started at approximately 11:20 AM and lasted 5 to 10 minutes. Although the actual power outage was short in duration, circuit breakers within the refinery tripped out and the refinery depressurized several process units to their flare system. Five refinery flares produced plumes of black smoke visible throughout the area. The refinery emergency flare was the longest in duration with visible emissions lasting approximately 85 minutes. The winds were from the east and south during the incident with the smoke travelling primarily upwards. Visible emissions from flaring was under control at about 12:45 PM.

District staff were on the scene to investigate the incident at approximately 11:30 AM. The District incident response vehicle arrived on scene and took 1 upwind and 1 downwind air samples. Contra Costa Health Services also captured air samples for analysis. District staff observed diesel type odors downwind of the refinery, and along the Waterfront road in Martinez.

The District received three complaints regarding the incident, one for flaring, one for smoke, and one for particulate fallout. The District, Tesoro Refinery operators, and Contra Costa Health Services Dispatch received numerous calls regarding the smoke.

The refinery issued a level 2 community alert at approximately 11:32 AM due to the large amount of black smoke in the area. The alert was downgraded to level 1 at 13:46 and was all clear at 15:15. No shelter-in-place warning was sounded.

The preliminary cause for the power outage is still under investigation. No reports of human injuries or equipment damage have been reported.
